



HR1077

LRB095 20393 DRJ 47889 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of infection that is resistant to treatment with the usual antibiotics and is the most common pathogen that causes Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) in the United States and around the world; and

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WHEREAS, A study led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in 2005 more than 94,000 invasive MRSA infections occurred in the United States and more than 18,500 of these infections resulted in death; and

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WHEREAS, The percentage of MRSA infections in the United States that are antimicrobial-resistant has grown from 2 percent in 1974 to 63 percent in 2004; and

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WHEREAS, The annual number of hospitalizations associated with MRSA infections more than doubled between 1999 and 2004, from 127,036 to 278,203; and

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WHEREAS, Approximately 85 percent of all invasive MRSA infections were associated with healthcare; and

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WHEREAS, Serious MRSA infections occur most frequently among individuals in hospitals and healthcare facilities,

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1 particularly the elderly, those undergoing dialysis, and those  
2 with surgical wounds; and

3 WHEREAS, Individuals infected with MRSA are most likely to  
4 have longer and more expensive hospital stays, with an average  
5 cost of \$35,000; and

6 WHEREAS, MRSA results in more than \$3,000,000,000 in annual  
7 Medicare charges alone, a major factor in the over  
8 \$5,000,000,000 annual price tag for treating healthcare  
9 associated infections in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, There has been an increase in reported staph  
11 infection outbreaks, including antibiotic-resistant strains,  
12 in states such as Illinois, New York, Kentucky, Virginia,  
13 Maryland, Ohio, North Carolina, and Florida, and in the  
14 District of Columbia; and

15 WHEREAS, Clusters of MRSA have been reported since 2000  
16 among competitive sports teams, where it is transmitted through  
17 personal contact, sharing towels or equipment, and sharing  
18 locker facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, Anyone, not just an infected patient, can be a  
20 vehicle for the transmission of MRSA through skin-to-skin  
21 contact; and

1           WHEREAS, MRSA is a preventable disease when appropriate  
2           hygienic practices, such as hand washing and appropriate first  
3           aid for open wounds and active skin infections, are followed;  
4           therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6           NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7           we:

8                   (1) recognize the need to apply what is already known  
9                   about reducing the transmission of infections in hospitals  
10                  and rationalizing antibiotic prescribing practices;

11                  (2) recognize the need to pursue operational research  
12                  to find the best ways of preventing hospital- and  
13                  community-acquired Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus  
14                  aureus (MRSA) and developing new antibiotics for improving  
15                  care for MRSA patients;

16                  (3) recognize the importance of raising awareness of  
17                  MRSA and methods of preventing MRSA infections;

18                  (4) support the work of advocates and organizations in  
19                  educating, supporting, and providing hope for individuals  
20                  and their families affected by community and healthcare  
21                  associated infections; and

22                  (5) designate the month of March 2008 as "MRSA  
23                  Awareness Month".